

IV. REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this action. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended. The amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to because the Abstract includes the title language of the invention. Although the cited MPEP section makes no mention of the basis for the objection, the Abstract has been revised to remove the title language. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8 and 14 are objected to because the alleged formalities of “core/pin rule.” The Office is respectfully directed to paragraph 0039 of the specification in which the term “core/pin rule” is explicitly defined. Applicants submit that the term “core/pin rule” is simply a name used to refer “a rule that defines each core, the pins on each core and corresponding pin attributes.” (Paragraph 0039). The backslash “/” in the term does not include any intended meaning other than optically separating “core” and “pin”. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In the Office Action, claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention allegedly lacks patentable utility. By this Amendment, claim 14 has been amended

according to the suggestions of the Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 13 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully appreciate this indication.

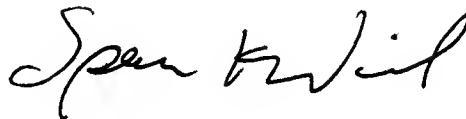
In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated over Choukalos et al.(US 6,425,109), hereinafter “Choukalos.” Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is allowable for the reasons that follow.

With respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 14, Choukalos does not disclose, *inter alia*, “the core/pin rule including pin class rules[.]” (Claims, 1, 8 and 14). The LINK_NAME of Choukalos only defines “the global net type to which the pin should be connected to” (col. 5, lines 14-15), but is not equivalent to the pin class rules as in the claimed invention. Moreover, even if, for sake of argument, the Office chose to interpret the LINK_NAME of Choukalos as equivalent to the pin class rules of the claimed invention, Choukalos still would not anticipate the claimed invention because Choukalos does not “construct class-type inference rules based on the pin class rules[.]” (Claims, 1, 8 and 14 of the claimed invention). Choukalos does not disclose constructing inference rules based on the LINK_NAME. In view of the foregoing, Choukalos does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection

The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer K. Warnick
Reg. No. 40,398

Date: 7/6/06

(JZ)

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)